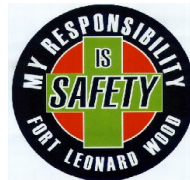




Fatality Alert 05-09

Possible Heat Injury



01 July 2005

This morning, a Fort Leonard Wood IET Soldier died after participating in an Army Physical Fitness Test. Although the cause of the death is not yet known, it is a possible heat casualty. And it definitely is a reminder that heat injuries can be very serious. Whether this proves to be a heat casualty or purely a medically-related death, we absolutely must ensure that we are doing everything reasonable to prevent heat injuries.

The following are the basic attitudes and actions for prevention of heat injuries. We must ensure that they become ingrained into our thinking and integral to all that we do when involved in hot weather activities.

RISK MANAGEMENT: All leaders must know the hazards associated with hot weather activities and must know, implement, and enforce effective control measures. Adjust risk assessments and activities as conditions change. Keep in mind that heat injuries are cumulative. Consider what activities Soldiers were involved in during the previous few days.

STANDARDS: All Commanders must ensure that their leaders know what the standards are for conducting activities in hot weather and know what is and is not allowed. Leaders must ensure that Soldiers know the standards and are trained to those standards.

KNOWLEDGE: It is essential that all persons involved in activities performed in hot weather conditions know the symptoms of heat injuries, preventive measures, and immediate first aid procedures. Ensure that initial and refresher training has been conducted. Ensure that personnel didn't just attend the training but that they also learned key points taught in the training. Leaders must know their Soldiers. Know which ones have factors that could make them more susceptible to heat injuries. Ensure that all personnel know the keys to heat injury prevention on the MSO Safety Alert 05-08, Heat Injury Prevention, dated 28 June 2005.

RESPONSIBILITY: Everyone is responsible for prevention of heat injuries. To prevent them, we must all behave in a very responsible manner, diligently observing the rules for heat injury prevention, using the control measures in our risk assessments, and not cutting corners or becoming complacent.

TEAMWORK: Watch out for yourself, but also watch out for the others around you. Do your part to protect those around you by ensuring that they know how to recognize, prevent, and treat heat injuries and then ensure that both you and they follow the rules. If even one member of our Fort Leonard Wood team fails to fulfill his or her responsibilities in regard to heat injury prevention, the likelihood of a heat injury will greatly increase.

ADJUSTMENT: Leaders must adjust training and other activities based upon current weather conditions, conditions of Soldiers, and other factors. Conditions that can result in heat injuries are not static. It is essential that we also not be static. We must adjust, as necessary, to the changing conditions, which can often increase risks.

ENFORCEMENT: Standards, training, and risk assessment do little good if leaders do not enforce the standards, including ensuring that the control measures in risk assessments are properly used. Take appropriate actions to deal with violations. Failure to do so in effect lowers the standards, increasing risk.

DILIGENCE: Leaders must diligently monitor Soldiers closely and regularly, to ensure that they are following the standards for heat injury prevention. Commanders must monitor cadre, to ensure that they are enforcing the standards.

MANSCEN SAFETY OFFICE